

II. 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 5, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication 2007/00038042 to Ogawa. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In order to perfect priority, Applicants submit a Verified English translation of Japan Patent Application No. 2002-280317 (JP317), to which the present application claims priority. JP317 was filed in the Japanese Patent Office on September 26, 2002, which predates the February 27, 2003 PCT filing date of Ogawa and the October 10, 2003 publication date of JP 2002-88075, to which Ogawa claims priority. Therefore, Ogawa does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102 for purposes of 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

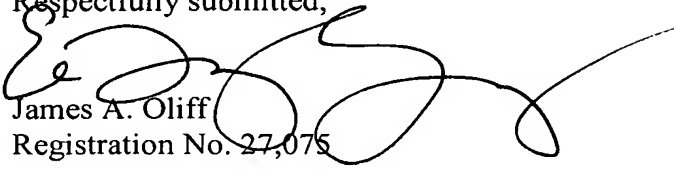
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: February 25, 2010

Enclosure:
Verified English Language Translation of JP 2002-280317

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